

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 071815Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8331

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THE FOL TEL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS
ON DEC 6 FROM BOMBAY IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

BOMBAY 2328

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP IN

SUBJ: U.S. MOTION PICTURE PROBLEMS IN INDIA

REF: (J1) PANOS/DUNCAN-PETERS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, DEC 5

(2) NEW DELHI 13863; AND (3) BOMBAY 1872

1. KINEMATOGRAPH RENTERS' SOCIETY (KRS) PRESIDENT PRABHU TOLD
CONGEN OFFICER DECEMBER 5, "ECONOMIC TIMES" REPORT, DEC 4
PARTIALLY CORRECT. HOWEVER, HE SURPRISED SUCH LEAKAGE TO PRESS
AT THIS STAGE AND BELIEVED THIS POSSIBLE GOI FEELER TO SOUND OUT
REACTION GOI CRITICS AND PUBLIC. PRABHU SAID HE ALREADY RECEIVED
"DOZEN CALLS" FROM THEATER OWNERS ASKING FOR CLARIFICATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRABHU, MPEAA'S REPRESENTATIVE D. PEREIRA AND
SECRETARY MINISTRY INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, A.J. KIDWANT,
WORKING OUT FILM-QUOTA AGREEMENT PROVISIONS OF WHICH ALMOST SIMILAR
TO THAT EXPIRED JUNE 1971, BUT FILMS WILL BE IMPORTED
"TEMPORARILY" THROUGH GOI FILM FINANCE CORPORATION (FFC),
PENDING FORMATION NATIONAL FILMS CORPORATION. THIS PUBLIC
SECTOR ARRANGEMENT SHOULD PLEASE GOI CRITICS. KRS CONSIDERS
REPRESENTATION FFC ADVISORY BOARD GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS APPROACH

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WITH GOI. PRESS REPORT INCORRECT RE 25 FEATURE FILMS HAVING BEEN
IMPORTED BY FFC FOR RELEASE IN JANUARY.

3. TO CONGEN OFFICER'S QUERY, PRABHU INDICATED CEILING FOR ANNUAL REMITTANCES BY KRS MEMBERS WILL BE RS. 25 LAKHS (ABOUT \$313,000) AS LAST AGREEMENT. ADDITIONAL SECRETARY MINISTRY FINANCE, NARASIMAN, ASSURED HIM HIS MINISTRY "NOT CONCERNED WITH ACCUMULATION OF BLOCKED RUPEES, BUT HOW THEY ARE USED" AND PROMISED TO ASSIST BY POINTING OUT IN WHICH AREAS INDIA'S ECONOMY SUCH FUNDS CAN BE USED. (NARASIMAN CLOSE FRIEND TO T.T. VASU, HOLIDAY INN, MADRAS.) PRABHU CONSIDERS THIS AS IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH IN KRS' EFFORTS FOR A RENEWED AGREEMENT WITH GOI.

4. PRABHU INDICATED CHANCES FOR A RENEWED GOI-MPEAA AGREEMENT NOW MUCH GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE, BECAUSE GOI FINALLY REALIZED IT LACKED EXPERTISE IN FILM BUSINESS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO PEREIRA'S TIRELESS EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL IN WASHINGTON AND PREDECESSOR L.K. JHA, NOW PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISOR. PRABHU ADDED KRS'S MEMBERS AWAITING REACTIONS*THEIR AMERICAN PRINCIPALS AND EXPECTED ANOTHER MEETING WITH GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS. HE PROMISED CONTACT MESSRS. LANDE AND DUNCAN-PETERS THROUGH PEREIRA BEFORE SUCH MEETING.

COMMENTS: PERHAPS THIS IS THE FACE-SAVING FORMULA GOI WAS HOPING FOR. THIS COULD REFLECT IMPROVING TREND IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.
BANE

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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